

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 65 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lieutenant General
Gene Fischer.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of Lieutenant General Gene Fischer; and

WHEREAS, a native of Pekin, Illinois, General Fischer earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Bradley University and a Master of Science degree in International Affairs from George Washington University; and

WHEREAS, Lt. General Fischer began his distinguished military career in 1962 in the 558th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 12th Tactical Fighter Wing at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. In 1965, the squadron relocated to Naha Air Force Base in Okinawa, and later returned to MacDill Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, in the Fall of 1966, Lt. General Fischer returned to the United States and became an instructor with the 431st Tactical Fighter Squadron, 479th Tactical Fighter Wing at George Air Force Base in California; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from the Naval War College Command and Staff Course in 1970, Lt. General Fischer was assigned to Headquarters Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, as an operations staff officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief-of-Staff for Plans; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the Air War College in 1974, Lt. General Fischer was assigned as the vice commander of the 51st Air Base Wing on Osan Air Base in South Korea; and

WHEREAS, in July 1975, Lt. General Fischer became the chief of the Readiness Branch in the Directorate of Operations in Washington, D.C. During the winter of 1977, he was transferred to Homestead Air Force Base in Florida, as the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing's Deputy Commander for Operations. In 1979, he became the Wing's vice commander, and was later awarded full command in 1980; and

WHEREAS, after serving as commander of the USAF Tactical Weapons Center from 1983-85, he moved back to Washington, D.C., where he admirably served as deputy chief of staff for plans and operations at the Air Force headquarters; and

WHEREAS, when Lt. General Fischer completed his tour at the Pentagon, he was reassigned as deputy commander-in-chief of the U.S. Southern Command at Quarry Heights in Panama; he then returned to Air Force Headquarters in 1989 as assistant deputy chief-of-staff, programs and resources. In the Fall of 1991, he was promoted to Lt. General; and

WHEREAS, General Fischer was a decorated Air Force Command Pilot and a combat veteran with 200 combat missions over Laos, North Vietnam and South Korea; and

WHEREAS, during his storied military career, Lt. General Fischer was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal with nine Oak Leaf Clusters; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his active military career, Lt. General Fischer was a valued member of the Rotary Club of Kingsport, the Boone Lake Association Executive Committee, the Air Force Association, the Military Academics Selection Boards, the Advisory Board, and served as director of the 1997 Tri-Cities Airshow; and

WHEREAS, as a tribute to this inimitable man, the 1999 Airshow will be dedicated to the memory of Lt. General Fischer; and

WHEREAS, he was a director of the Tri-Cities Airport Study Group, a member of the Masonic Lodge in Piney Flats, the Royal Order of Jesters Court 183, the Scottish Rite, an officer of the Jericho Shrine and chairman of the Jericho Shrine Building Fund; and

WHEREAS, men of Gene Fischer's stature do not often walk among us, and his death creates a void that will be difficult to fill; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we pause to honor the memory of Lt. General Gene Fischer, reflecting fondly upon his significant legacy of outstanding public service as a man of purpose and commitment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Lt. General Fischer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.